

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

DROUGHT or DISASTER RELATED PROGRAMS

(currently available)

Haying and Grazing of CRP

In drought or disaster situations the authorization of the haying and grazing of CRP can be authorized directly by the Agency. Requests typically need to be based on at least a 40% loss in precipitation and/or a compelling livestock emergency. Currently 4 requests have been submitted to the FSA National Office in Washington DC. These requests have been denied due to the fact there is not a current livestock emergency of cattle being moved or sold due to the related drought conditions.

NAP – Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

In summary this is an insurance program that provides coverage for crops in which other crop insurance is not available. Coverage under this program must have been purchased by March 15th. Benefits are paid on actual losses. Harvest must occur in order to determine the loss benefit to the producer. **(REFER TO ATTACHED FACT SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION).**

EM – Emergency Loan Program

A “loan” program to compensate producers for losses that were incurred by a natural disaster. The county or area must have been determined to be an eligible county due to a Secretarial Disaster Designation or a Presidential Declaration. For production losses a producer must indicate they have sustained a 30% or greater loss. Harvest must occur in order to determine the loss benefit to the producer. At this time none of the 56 Montana Counties have been referred for a possible Secretarial Designation. **(REFER TO ATTACHED FACT SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION).**

ECP – Emergency Conservation Program

A cost share program that reimburses producers for costs incurred to carry out emergency water conservation during droughts or to assist on other projects to rehabilitate farmland that has been damaged due to a Natural Disaster. Counties are designated by the FSA State Committee. Currently 8 Montana counties have been authorized for ECP regarding the 2008 drought situation; however, there is not any funding for this program in Fiscal Year 2008. A supplemental funding bill by Congress would be necessary to provide funding for this program. **(REFER TO ATTACHED FACT SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION).**

Possible Assistance through the new Farm Bill

The new farm bill does contain permanent disaster legislation. Until passage and implementation, it is not known exactly the extent of the benefits. It is presumed that the criteria and benefits will be similar to the 2007 Disaster Bill, in which benefits are paid on actual losses determined after harvest has occurred.

Programs no longer available or unavailable due to lack of funding:

- **American Indian Emergency Feed Program**
- **Dried Milk Program**